

REMARKS

The Examiner has previously indicated that claims 10-18 were allowed, so these claims are not discussed further herein. Further, the Examiner has also previously indicated that claim 8 was allowable. Accordingly, claim 8 has been amended to be in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. As such, Applicant submits that claim 8 is in condition for allowance.

In the Decision on Appeal mailed 7 February 2005, the Board reversed the rejection of claims 2-6 and 20-24, and sustained the rejection of claims 1, 7, 19, and 25. In response, the following amendments have been made:

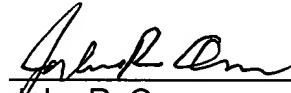
1. Claims 1, 7, 19, and 25 have been canceled.
2. Claim 2 has been amended to be in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Note that claims 3-6 were not amended, as these claims depend from claim 2.
3. Claim 20 has been amended to be in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Note that claim 21 was not amended, as claim 21 depends from claim 20.
4. Claim 22 has been amended to be in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.
5. Claim 23 has been amended to be in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.
6. Claim 24 has been amended to be in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

In view of these amendments, Applicant submits that, consistent with the Board's ruling, claims 2-6 and 20-24 are in condition for allowance.

There being no further issues with this case, Applicant submits that all currently pending claims are in condition for allowance. However, if there are any outstanding issues not addressed by this Amendment, Applicant requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned so that such issues may be expeditiously resolved. Otherwise, Applicant respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance promptly issue for this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 24, 2005

  
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